Hylozoic Atheisms. Though we had a further design herein also, for the defence of Theism; forasmuch as without such a nature, either God must be supposed to do all things in the world immediately, and to form every gnat and fly, as it were,-. with his own hands; which seemeth not so becoming of him, and would render his providence, to human apprehensions, laborious and distractions ; or else the whole system of this corporeal universe must result only from for tuitous mechanism, without the direction of any mind ; which hypothesis once aidmitted, would unquestionably, by degrees, supplant and undermine all Theism. And now, from what we have declared, it may plainly appear, that this digression of onr's, concerning an artificial, regular, and plastic nature, (subordinate to the Deity) is no wen, or excres-cency in the body of this book ; but a natural and necessary member thereof.

In the fourth chapter, after the idea of God fully declared, (where we could not omit his essential goodness and justice, or, if we inay so call it, the morality of the Deity, though that be a thing properly belonging to the second book, the confutation of the Divine Fate immoral) there is a large account given of the Pagan Polytheism; to satisfy a very considerable objection, that lay in our way from thence, against the naturality of the idea of 'God, as including oneliness and singularity in it. For had that, upon inquiry, been found true, which is so commonly taken for granted, that the generality of the Pagan nations had constantly scattered their devotions amongst a multitude of self-existent and independent deities, they ac-knowledging no sovereign Numen; this would